

THE HARIDASA MOVEMENT

73

We cannot please God by what we are. We please Him by acknowledging Him. What is it that we can take as gift to Him? With what shall we please Him, Lord of the humble? He should give to us rather the thought of Him.

Man should not put off the impulse to rise. He should use it when it comes. Winnow the corn when the wind is blowing. Say not " to-morrow ". Now is the time; come. God is gracious and is ever more ready with His mercy than man with devotion. He will carry grass to the house of those who bring Him flowers. He has no pride at all, the Lord of all wealth.

Purandaradasa was what in modern parlance should be called a mystic. It appears from his story that he was a man of strong impulses and will. When he was of the world he was heartily of it; when he awoke from worldliness he reacted strongly and gave up the world altogether. He felt near to God and yet far and passed some time on the swing of faith, feeling his unworthiness keenly, and slowly realising the mercy of God. This is the story of all strong natures which start in the world's race and feel pulled towards God in the middle of it. Purandaradasa did not write reminiscence. If he had, we should have had a book like St. Augustine's

Confessions, or
Mahatma Gandhi's story of his life. Self-
revelation
of this kind was not the tradition of his
time. All
experience was expected to contribute to
the joint
wisdom of the country. Utterance was
restricted in all
cases to general observation confirming or
modifying
accepted wisdom. Yet Purandaradasa put
enough